

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. It is respectfully acknowledged that Claims 1-15 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and Claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner has objected Claim 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable. However, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 17 is originally written in independent form which is not dependent upon a rejected base claim. Withdrawal of objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Independent Claims 1 and 7 have been amended in an effort to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of rejections are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nourrcier, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,691,808). Claim 16 has been cancelled without prejudice. Withdrawal of rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 7 and 17 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-15, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of rejections of dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-15 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-15 and 17 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining

matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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